

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**Claims pending**

- At time of the Action: Claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-14.
- After this Response: Claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-14.

Canceled or Withdrawn claims: 5, 8.

Amended claims: 1, 6, 9, 10, 11, and 14.

New claims: None.

Please amend the claims as indicated below:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for generating a muting signal, the apparatus comprising:

a training mode on/off switch;

an audio signal detector for remotely receiving an audible ring signal transmitted via an acoustic medium; and

a processor in communication with the detector, wherein the processor is configured to:

convert the received audible ring signal into a digitized received audio ring signal;

in response to a first setting of the training mode on/off switch, store the digitized received audio ring signal in one of a memory device and a storage device associated with the processor as a predetermined digitized audio ring signal;

in response to a second setting of the training mode on/off switch,

compare the digitized received audio ring signal with one or more predetermined digitized audio ring signals, wherein each of the one or more predetermined digitized audio ring signals is associated with a corresponding device and is pre-stored in one of ~~a~~the memory device and ~~a~~the storage device ~~associated with the processor~~; and

generate a muting signal based on the comparison when at least a component of the digitized received audio ring signal matches one of the one or more pre-stored predetermined digitized audio ring signals.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the audio signal detector includes a transducer.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further including an amplifier in communication with the audio signal detector.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further including an analog to digital signal converter in communication with the audio signal detector.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently amended) An apparatus for generating a muting signal, the apparatus comprising:

means for detecting an audible ring signal transmitted via an acoustic medium;

means for converting the detected audible ring signal into a digitized detected audio ring signal;

means for selecting a training mode of the apparatus;

means for pre-storing one or more predetermined digitized audio ring signals in response to a training mode setting selected by the selecting means, wherein each of the one or more pre-stored predetermined digitized audio ring signals is associated with a corresponding device;

means for comparing the digitized detected audio ring signal with the one or more pre-stored predetermined digitized audio ring signals in response to a second setting selected by the selecting means; and

means for generating a muting signal based on the comparison when at least a component of the digitized detected audio ring signal matches one of the one or more pre-stored predetermined digitized audio ring signals.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising means for amplifying the detected audio signal.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently amended) An apparatus for generating a muting signal, the apparatus comprising:

a transducer for remotely detecting an audible ring signal transmitted via an acoustic medium and generating a detected audio ring signal corresponding thereto;

an amplifier connected to the transducer for amplifying the detected audio ring signal and for generating an amplified detected audio ring signal;

an analog to digital signal converter connected to the amplifier for converting the amplified detected audio ring signal to a digitized detected audio ring signal;

a training mode on/off switch;

one of a memory device and a storage device connected to the converter, and

a digital signal processor connected to the one of a memory device and a storage device and configured to:

in response to a first setting of the training mode on/off switch, store the digitized detected audio ring signal in one of a memory device and a storage device associated with the processor as a predetermined digitized audio ring signal;

in response to a second setting of the training mode on/off switch,

compare the digitized detected audio ring signal with one or more predetermined digitized audio ring signals, wherein each of the one or more predetermined digitized audio ring signals is associated with a corresponding device and is pre-stored in the one of a memory device and a storage device; and

generate a muting signal based on the comparison when at least a component of the digitized detected audio ring signal matches one of the one or more pre-stored predetermined digitized audio ring signals.

10. (Currently amended) A method for generating a muting signal, the method comprising:

detecting an audible ring signal transmitted via an acoustic medium;

converting the detected audible ring signal into a digitized detected audio ring signal;

determining whether the detected audible ring signal is for training;

in response to the detected audible ring signal being for training, pre-storing the detected audible ring signal as one of a plurality of ~~one or more~~ predetermined digitized audio ring signals in one of a memory device and a storage device, wherein each of the one or more pre-stored predetermined digitized audio ring signals is associated with a corresponding device;

in response to the detected audible ring signal not being for training, comparing the digitized detected audio ring signal with the one or more pre-stored predetermined digitized audio ring signals; and

generating a muting signal based on the comparison when at least a component of the digitized detected audio ring signal matches one of the one or more pre-stored predetermined digitized audio ring signals.

11. (Currently amended) An audio device, comprising:

a training mode on/off switch;

an audio signal detector for remotely receiving an audible ring signal transmitted via an acoustic medium; and

a processor in communication with the detector, wherein the processor is configured to:

convert the received audible ring signal into a digitized received audio ring signal;

in response to a first setting of the training mode on/off switch, store the digitized received audio ring signal in one of a memory device and a storage device associated with the processor as a predetermined digitized audio ring signal;

in response to a second setting of the training mode on/off switch,
compare the digitized received audio ring signal with one or more predetermined digitized audio ring signals, wherein each of the one or more predetermined digitized audio ring signals is associated with a corresponding device other than the audio device and is pre-stored in one of ~~a~~the memory device and ~~a~~the storage device ~~associated with the processor~~; and

mute the audio device based on the comparison when at least a component of the digitized received audio ring signal matches one of the one or more pre-stored predetermined digitized audio ring signals.

12. (Original) The audio device of claim 11, wherein the audio device is selected from the group consisting of a radio, a television, a stereo system, a CD player and a DVD player.

13. (Original) The audio device of claim 11, further comprising a muting on/off switch.

14. (Currently amended) The audio device of claim 11, further comprising a storage key that is operative to assign a storage location to the digitized received audio ring signal in response to a first setting of the training mode on/off switch.